

A World without War

Alexandra

23.01.94

(Isaiah 9 vs 1-7)

During the past few months I have had serious problems with my health. I had to diminish my ministry in a number of spheres in order to attend to the recovery of my body. I wish to thank so many of you who included me in your prayers. This period became a time in which I reflected much about life and death - especially about life which we as human beings receive from God as a gift which we have to treasure.

Naturally my thoughts turned to countries and people around the world whose lives were threatened and endangered - especially those of people who innocently ~~became~~ ^{die} because of violence, bloodshed, hatred and war. Inevitably my thoughts also turned to what is happening in our own country: Natal, Transkei, Bophuthatse, Alexandra - where so many people have died as the result of political conflict and criminal violence over the last few years. I was reminded of the events in our country where on the one hand God has broken the rod of the oppressors which inflicted apartheid on us (Isaiah 9 vs 4) but also

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left us with a legacy of violence, bloodshed & death where the life of a human being has become cheap.

Two questions arose in my heart:

(1) Why is God allowing all this bloodshed & killing & shooting to happen? Does it please God to see so many people (esp. innocent people) being shot or burned or necklaced by other people? If not, why is He allowing it?

(2) What does the promise of God in Isaiah 9 about a "Prince of Peace" & about "a kingdom of peace" mean? Are these just empty words? Rhetoric to soothe & calm the people?

- Bishop Stanley Kigoba: Sermon at Opening

Service of Welcome to Central Comm. of NCC:

Suggestion & appeal to start a movement of ending of violence & war throughout the world. Followed by Bishop Peter Storey to suggest to white Christians in act of faith to hand over their arms, guns or Gold today to be melted into instruments of peace.